



U.S. Customs and Border Protection

Simplified Entry

FACT SHEET

Summary

In December 2011, U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) selected nine brokers to participate in its pilot test of Simplified Entry for air cargo. The pilot participants are A.N. Deringer, Inc., Expeditors, FedEx Trade Networks, FH Kaysing, Janel Group of New York, Kuehne + Nagel Inc., Livingston International, Page & Jones, Inc., and UPS.

The Office of International Trade (OT) has worked closely with the pilot participants to develop a pilot schedule that will allow for robust systems testing for both CBP and the Trade and will not impact M1 development and deployment.

Pilot participants will submit a reduced amount of information—12 required and three optional data elements—prior to the arrival of the merchandise in the U.S. The Simplified Entry can be filed much earlier in the import process, allowing an expanded window of opportunity to identify potential risks. It will also allow pilot participants to update entry information, something that is not available today, providing CBP with more accurate data and enhancing cargo security.

The pilot eliminates the current entry, CBP Form 3461, replacing it with a streamlined set of data. This simplifies the merchandise release process and reduces transaction costs for the Trade.

Pilot participants will file entries for their clients. Clients of the brokers selected include Nike, USA Inc., GE Energy, Chrysler Group LLC, New Balance Athletic Shoe, Inc., Ford Motor Company, Boeing, and Lear Corporation. CBP received a total of 40 applications in response to its November 9 Federal Register notice announcing the pilot.

How Simplified Entry Works

CBP's approach on Simplified Entry is in direct response to the Trade's call for more predictability in the importation process, streamlined data submissions, and expedited release of cargo.

Working with representatives of 5 Trade Associations, CBP compared which data elements were needed for releasing cargo, with what the Trade had available in the advanced, pre-departure environment. The result of this work was the Simplified Entry data set, 12 required data elements with 3 optional elements; compared to the 27 data elements currently required on CBP's 3461 entry form. This Simplified Entry process reduces the number of data transmissions. It separates the collection of shipment data and transportation data. Importers will supply shipment data via the Simplified Entry and carriers will supply transportation data via manifest, as they do today. The result will be a streamlined entry process and more accurate shipment information available to CBP for targeting much earlier in the supply chain.

Under the Simplified Entry pilot, which will initially deploy in the air mode of transportation, the carrier will submit the



manifest/ACAS security filing (as appropriate), and the importer will submit the Simplified Entry data set. Filers will provide the information as soon as it's available. By filing well in advance, CBP can run its targeting earlier, ensuring that the goods aren't held up for issues that could have been resolved pre-flight. CBP can then message a release indication on the goods. If additional data is required, filers can resolve these issues before the plane leaves, or during transit, resulting in fewer goods held at arrival and more goods released into commerce quickly.

Advantages to this Approach

Simplified Entry leverages strides made in automation to truly transform CBP business processes. The result is a streamlined approach to the entry process, in which more accurate information is provided earlier in the process. As the Simplified Entry can be filed earlier, this allows for an expanded window of opportunity to identify potential risks. It will also allow pilot participants to update entry information, providing CBP more accurate data, thereby enhancing cargo security.

Simplified Entry represents a key building block for Automated Commercial Environment (ACE) Cargo Release. ACE is the commercial trade processing system being developed by CBP to facilitate trade while strengthening border security. ACE Cargo Release is a key functionality that has garnered much interest from the Trade. Simplified Entry will advance the schedule for Cargo Release, in a timeframe that is much earlier than expected. This capability will reduce costs related to cargo holds due to the expedited cargo release window.

A detailed process flow of the Simplified Entry process can be found on the reverse side of this fact sheet.



FACT SHEET

Simplified Entry Process

